RAJYA SABHA

Monday the 27th July, 1992/5 Sravana, 1914 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, The **Deputy Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Textile Research Association financed by Government

*261. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:†
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the textiles research associations financed by Government of India;

(b) the amount of funds granted to these associations during the last three years;

(c) what were the main activities undertaken by these associations during the same period; and

(d) whether the reports of these associations have been made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) and (b) The name of Textile Research Association and the amount of funds (Plan and Non-Plan) released to these Associations during the last three years are as under:

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Textile Research Association	Funds released during the years		
		1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
1	Ahemadabad Textile Industry Research Association, Ahemadabad	96-15	117.11	122.65
2	Bombay Textile Research Association, Bombay	107.02	98.75	157.00
3	South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore	48.38	70.16	87.67
4	Northern India Textile Research, Association, Ghaziabad	37.61	42.22	49.55
5	Silk & Art Silk Mills Research Association, Bombay	55.13	74.16	95.25
6	Man-Made Textile Research Association, Surat	37.00	37.25	42.42
7	Indian Jute Industry's Research Association, Calcutta	240.00	248.00	291.77
8	Wool Research Association, Bombay	18.96	31.00	43.15

(c) The main activities of the Textile Research Association have been to conduct research on behalf of the Government and other agencies, providing services to member mills, conducting training programmes and undertaking extension work.

(d) Yes, Sir.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Madam, these textile research associations get about Rs. 9 crores annually from the Government. Last year they got a fund of Rs. 9 crores from the Government. Now, all these textile research associations are fully

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Shrikant Ramchandra Jichkar.

dominated by mill-owners. Their Chairmen are always mill-owners. Their publications are not made available to the public. When we write letters to them, they reply that the information is confidential. They deal only with the problems of the manufacturers. They do not deal with the problems of handlooms, powerlooms and consumers. My supplementary question is, since we give them huge amounts, will the Government evolve some mechanism whereby Members of Parliament will be appointed on their boards? Alternatively since we give them huge amounts,—Rs. 9 crores per year—would the Government appoint a Government nominee as the Chairman? Let the mill-owner be the Chairman for one year and for the next year, let a Government nominee be the Chairman. Can a Government nominee be the Chairman?

श्री अशोक गहलोत : उपसभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य ने जो सुझाव दिया है वो मेम्बर पार्लियामेंट को रखने वाली बात है उसको हम एक्जामिन करवाएंगे । जहां तक पावरलूम, हैंडलूम और दूसरे कंज्यूमर्स को सर्विस देने की बात है मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि जो रिसर्च वर्क हो रहा है वह उन्हीं के लिए हो रहा है क्योंकि अगर टैक्सटाइल में कोई रिसर्च वर्क होगा तो उसका फायदा अल्टीमेटली सभी सेक्टर्स के लोगों को मिलेगा । अब जहां तक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि हूज एमाउंट जो दिया जाता है इनको तो सरकार की नीति है कि हम धीरे-धीरे गवर्नमेंट की डिपेंडेंस को कम करें और जो मिल ओनर्स हैं जोकि इनके सदस्य हैं क्योंकि सहकारिता के आधार पर ही ये सारी एसोसिएशंस चल रही हैं उनके ऊपर उनकी डिपेंडेंस बढ़ सके, यह हमारी कोशिश है ।

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Madam, in the reply they have said that the reports are made available. My experience is otherwise. I had written a letter to them enquiring if the cotton is replaced by viscose whether the output would be the same on the loom and the spindle. I got a reply from BITRA that the information is confidential. I was a legislator in Maharashtra at that time. I thought that for an MLC the information might be confidential. So I requested one of the M.Ps., a CPI MP, Mr. Sudan Deshmukh, from Amravati, to write a letter. He wrote a letter to BITRA and he also received the same reply that the information is confidential. Now, the Government is giving them Rs. 9 crores per year for doing research. They informed us that the information is confidential. My question is: would the Government re-examine this issue, evolve some mechanism whereby all these research reports would be treated as public documents and made available in the Parliament Library?

श्री अशोक गहलोत : उपसभापति जी, वैसे एनुअल रिपोर्ट हम पार्लियामेंट की लायब्रेरी में रखते हैं और वह सदन के पटल पर रखी जाती है । वर्ष 91 की रिपोर्ट रखी जा चुकी है । इस साल की रिपोर्ट भी हम रखेंगे ।

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Madam, I am not asking about the annual reports. The annual reports are only about their income and expenditure. We are not interested in that. We are interested in their research reports. These research reports are treated as confidential. Would the Minister make them available in the Parliament Library? (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member has written a letter to them to find out whether with the change of fibres, the production will be affected. He wants to know about that report.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: They must share the information.

श्री अशोक गहलोत : उपसभापति जी एसोसिएशंस रजिस्ट्रार के यहां रजिस्टर्ड हैं । हम लोग खाली उनको असिस्टेंस ग्रांट के रूप में देते हैं । उसके बावजूद जो माननीय सदस्य शिकायत कर रहे हैं उसकी हम जांच करवाएंगे किस संदर्भ में उन्होंने यह लिखकर भेजा है । मैं माननीय सदस्य को उत्तर भेजूंगा ।

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Madam, one of the major studies taken up by SITRA, that is, the South Indian Textiles Research Association, was the study of the Euality of Indian yarn that is being exported. During the study it was observed that a substantial quantity of yarn exported during the year 1987-88 did not meet the quality requirements of the end-user. Various measures to meet the quality of yarn were outlined in the report. So my question is whether the measures which were mentioned in the report were implemented by the Government. The SITRA have suggested so many measures in the report. What measures were implemented by the Government?

श्री अशोक गहलोत : उपसभापति महोदया, सिट्रा ने हमें इस प्रकार की कोई अलग से सिफारिश नहीं की है क्योंकि वह तो अपना खुद काम करती है। माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात कही है उसकी मैं और जानकारी प्राप्त करूंगा और अगर कोई होगी तो मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताऊंगा।

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Madam, more than 24 crores of rupees were spent over three years for the benefit of the textile mills with a labour force of about 11 to 21 lakhs in the country, but nothing has been spent for handlooms with a lobour force of 120 lakhs. Why is there this discrimination? How long will it continue? May I know from the hon. Minister whether a research association exclusive for the handlooms will be set up?

श्री अशोक गहलोत : उपसभापति जी, जहां तक रिसर्च एसोसिएशन की बात है वह सभी जगह पर काम कर रही है, साऊथ इंडिया में काम कर रही है, मुम्बई में कर रही है, सिट्रा नार्थ के लिए कर रही है और वह जो काम कर रही है, रिसर्च का उसके अंतर्गत यार्न की क्वालिटी बनाने का काम करती है, जो हैंडलूम में भी काम आता है उसके अन्दर टैस्टिंग, अनइवेननेस काम जिससे हम एक्सपोर्ट ज्यादा कर सकें। इसलिए जो काम हो रहा है वह पावरलूम और हैंडलूम के लिए भी हो रहा है। जैसी कि माननीय सदस्य ने भावना प्रकट की है मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि जो एसोसिएशन में हमारा एक्सपोर्ट का है और जिस प्रकार से उन्होंने काम किया है उससे उनको लाभ मिला है। एक कमेटी, हाई पावर कमेटी बनी थी, उसकी रिकमंडेशन भी थी कि डीसेंट्रलाइज्ड सेक्टर के लिए काम करे यह एसोसिएशन। हमने उनको निर्देश दिया कि डीसेंट्रलाइज्ड सेक्टर का जो हैंडलूम और पावरलूम है उनके लिए भी काम करना है। यहां तक अलग रिसर्च एसोसिएशन बनाने की बात है ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव अभी सरकार के सामने आया नही है। अगर आएगा तो उस पर विचार करेंगे।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Yashwant Ambedkar...(*Interruptions*)... Kotaiahji, I have asked someone else.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: I would like to have a clear answer from the Minister. He is not correct. The Textile associations, research associations, have been formed exclusively for the benefit of the textile mills...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is saying he will make...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: They are not intended for the handlooms. Four years back on our...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ambedkar.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Four years back the Government set apart some 25 lakhs of rupees, but these 25 lakhs of rupees had been given away to the STTRA, AITRA, BTRA and other research associations. What is the benefit that the handloom weavers could derive from this grant of Rs. 25 lakhs intended for them? Why have these 25 lakhs of rupees been given to the SITRA, AITRA, BTRA?...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kotaiah, I know you have spent all your life for handloom-weavers. The Minister has replied that if there is any proposal, he will examine it. So please take your seat.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Why can't the Government take the initiative?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Government will take the initiative. Let him at least ask his question.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Madam, the Silk and Art Silk Mills Association, Bombay, has been funded by the Government. Over the last three years, as I know, the German Government has been complaining about the processing of the silk which is supplied by the Indian Government to the German companies over there. May I know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government have taken to see that the compaint that they have made regarding the processing of silk is removed? Have they attended to it? Have they solved it?

श्री अशोक गहलोत : मैडम, हमारे पास ऐसी कोई इनकी शिकायत नहीं है । अगर कोई शिकायत आएगी तो उनको दूर करेंगे ।

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Madam, the Minister has said that these reports from various research organisations have been received. I would like to know whether the Government have assessed these reports and whether the contents have been made available to the industries concerned and what the results are of these reports and of the assessment made by the Government.

श्री अशोक गहलोत : उपसभापति जी, वह जो रिसच एसोसिएशन है, उनके सदस्य, मेम्बर्स है । उनसे समय-समय पर संबद्ध हो जाते हैं, वह उनके मेम्बर की तरह ही काम करते है । हमारे पास कोई सीधे उनके डिटेल्स की रिपोर्ट नहीं आती, जिससे कि हम उनको गाइडन्स दे सकें ।

क्वेश्चन नंबर 262.

Encouragement to indigenous sectors for food processing

*262. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:†
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the international companies which have been permitted or have already entered the Indian food processing industry together with the names of the area where they have been allowed to enter;

(b) what are the reasons for not restricting this area of food processing for the indigenous industries; and

(c) what incentives are being given by the Central Government for the promotion of food processing by indigenous entrepreneurs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Many foreign companies including NRIs and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) with majority equity holding of NRIs have been permitted or have already entered into collaboration with Indian companies or have registered a company in India for manufacture of processed food items. Areas of operation of these companies include processed fruits and vegetable products, milk food, malted food, baby food, high energy food, yiest, beer, chocolates, snack foods, soft drinks concentrate, soya products, starch, glucose, sorbitol, break-fast cereals and processed cereal products, tea, coffee (including instant tea and coffee), deep sea fisning, fish processing, meat and poultry processing, extruded foods, food processing machinery, food packaging etc. Recently, Government have ap-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi.